

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06061 030907Z

ACTION FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03
/043 W

-----086891 032228Z /64

R 030826Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9493

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SA

SUBJ: TERMINATION OF FAA/SAUDI ARABIAN AIRLINES MEMORANDUM OF
AGREEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 178457, (B) JIDDA 6015

1. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND FROM REFTEL A THAT FAA IS UNLIKELY
TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION TO CANCEL MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
WITH SAUDIA, WE BELIEVE IT NECESSRY TO POINT OUT THAT DECISION
WILL ALMOST SURELY LEAD TO DIMINISHED AMERICAN ROLE IN
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF SAUDIA AIRLINES.

2. PRESSURE IS STRONG WITHIN SAUDIA AIRLINES TO ACCEPT
NON-FAA CERTIFICATED FLIGHT DECK CREWS. TWA MANAGEMENT
ADVISORS TO SAUDIA HAVE SO FAR ARGUED SUCCESSFULLY THAT
FAA CERTIFICATIONS GIVE BEST ASSURANCE AVAILABLE THAT
AIRLINES FLIGHT CREW STANDARDS WILL BE HIGHEST. PART OF
SUPPORT FOR ADVISORS' ARGUEMENT HAS BEEN THAT CURRENT
TRAINING CONTRACT (WITH AER LINGUS IN DUBLIN) AND
CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES (BY VISIT OF FAA REPS FROM
BRUSSELS) ARE BOTH CONVENIENT AND REASONABLY PRICED.

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HOWEVER, WITH FAA OFFER OF FUTURE CERTIFICATION SERVICES
IN US SUBJECT TO CAVEATS "UNDER CURRENT POLICIES" AND
"SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY" (PARA 3 REFTEL A), WHICH ARE
FURTHER LIMITED BY FYI SECTION (PARA 4 REFTEL A), IT
IS CLEAR THIS SITUATION WILL CHANGE, AND PERHAPS
DRASTICALLY. SAUDIA WOULD, IN ALL PROBABILITY, MOVE
FAIRLY RAPIDLY TO ACCEPTANCE OF ICAO CERTIFICATIONS AT

FIRST SIGN OF SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL EXPENSE OR TROUBLE IN REVISED FAA CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE. THIS WOULD, IN TURN LEAD TO A LOSS OF AMERICAN EMPLOYMENT WITH SAUDIA, AND A DECREASE IN THE AMERICAN INFLUENCE ON SAUDI'S OPERATIONS. THE U.S. HAS OBTAINED CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE IN THE PAST FROM THE AMERICAN ORIENTATION OF CIVIL AIR OFFICIALS HERE. IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR US TO REMOVE ONE OF THE UNDERPINNINGS OF THAT ADVANTAGEOUS RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT EFFORTS TO LEAVE SOMETHING IN ITS PLACE.

3. WE BELIEVE TWA WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH FAA TO DISCOVER WHAT FLEXIBILITY THERE MAY BE FOR LATTER TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATIONS FOR SAUDIA AND/OR TWA EMPLOYEES, SHORT OF SAUDI HAVING TO ESTABLISH TRAINING FACILITIES IN US (WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE UNACCEPTABLE ADDITIONAL EXPENSE TO AIRLINE). WE RECOMMEND THAT FAA MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE.
WEST

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